

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), considering minimal attention is being paid to its draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism (A/59/894). One of the chapters highlights the need to have a balanced approach towards international law for such matters rather than to be rigid in its application. In the absence of an independent body at the international level, it urges a mechanism to ensure no misuse of the current system because, unlike internal/domestic law violations, there may not be a legal recourse to rectify international law violations.

This book is on a less-researched high-demand subject, and reading national security law through India's lens allows various international law and international relations scholars to draw comparative references to better understand this emerging area. A chapter on the adverse effects of transnational organized crimes on India's national security could have enhanced the book; however, this necessary omission may be attributed to India's geo-political situation and its constant struggles to combat it.

**Competing interests.** None.

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## **Submarine Cables Protection and Regulations: A Comparative Analysis and Model Framework**

**by Utpal Kumar RAHA and K.D. RAJU. Springer/Singapore: Springer Publications, 2021. xxv + 177 pp. Hardcover: €139.99; eBook: €117.69. doi: 10.1007/978-981-16-3436-9**

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The survival of the human race is not inevitable and is probably less so without global communication, which in turn relies substantially on underwater cabling. Any damage to these cables results in huge losses nationally and internationally. Considering such a nexus, Raha, a former research scholar at Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India, with a long history in water cable ocean law and policy, and Raju, a professor of law at the aforementioned university, have rigorously emphasized the need for a dedicated legal mechanism for robust protection and laying of submarine cables. It is pertinent to note that the book is neither a treatise nor a handbook on submarine cables but is instead a research book that discusses the weak and inadequate legal measures and institutional mechanisms for their protection. The book argues for a common national and international legal framework to protect submarine cable disruption from natural and man-made factors.

The book begins with a critical analysis of the principles and instruments relating to international submarine cable operation and protection. Moreover, while doing so, the authors highlight the gaps in the current international regime, including the inadequacies of the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea, such as those relating to the threats posed by piracy, maritime terrorism, and deliberate human aggression. Subsequently, the authors proceed to discuss selected national jurisdictions, namely, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, China,

the United Kingdom, France, the United States of America, Canada, South Africa, and South America, wherein they compare and analyze the respective submarine cable regimes to portray the commonalities and gaps concerning its protection, security, and reliability.

Furthermore, the authors compare the Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions with specific laws and dedicated national legislation to deal with issues relating to submarine cables. An integrated approach highlights the critical nature of the submarine cables and their respective comprehensive measures for their laying and protection. The authors suggest that the basic structure, fundamental principles, parameters, and limitations of these legislations would contribute significantly to the jurisprudence of national laws on submarine cables. The book concludes with a model legal framework and draft legal provisions for cable operation and its protection within national maritime jurisdictions, which may serve as a reference for various countries to strengthen their submarine cable regimes.

**Competing interests.** The author declares none.

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## **Sexual and Gender Based Violence in International Law: Making International Institutions Work**

**by Bharat H. Desai and Moumita Mandal. Singapore: Springer Nature, 2022. xvii + 283 pp. Hardcover: €99.99; eBook: €85.59. doi:10.1007/9789811908941**

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The book deals with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as a global challenge, where one in every three women experiences physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. It is spoken in whispers and endured in silence. With a foreword by Peter Maurer, former president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (2012–2022), the book focuses on women and girls as they comprise the majority of SGBV victims-survivors.

This cutting-edge scholarly work covers different forms of SGBV – physical, psychological, sexual and socio-economic violence, and cultural practices. The first chapter includes the introduction and scope of the book. The second chapter addresses SGBV as a global concern and comprises key concepts, causes, and consequences. The authors cite various instances to explain how unequal power relations are responsible for the prevalence of SGBV against women. It is in this context that the role and response of international law in eliminating the scourge of SGBV is analyzed. The third chapter delineates the status of relevant international legal mechanisms that provide protection for women against different forms of SGBV. Accordingly, the authors critically examine the legal instruments in the fields of international human rights law (IHRL), international humanitarian law (IHL), international criminal law (ICL), as well as the law-making processes primarily through the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and other subsidiary organs of the UN system. The authors point out the inadequacies